

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

JCS

CSAF RUFTRRA/USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5147

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: 12-31-79

TAGS/ MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJ: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY - SUB-GROUP AIR

REF: A. USNATO 5007

B. STATE 204373

C. THE HAGUE 4594

BEGIN SUMMARY: SUB-GROUP MET 22 OCT TO REVIEW AND APPROVE REVISED FINAL DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT. COMPLETE PACKAGE OF FINAL DRAFTS FORWARDED TO WASHDC 23 OCT. THE SUB-GROUP'S RECOMMENDATION THAT IT DISBAND IS DISCUSSED. MISSION STILL RECOMMENDS US SUPPORT SELECTION OF OPTION TWO. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE
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BY 2 NOV 73. END SUMMARY

1. THE FIFTH AND FINAL SESSION OF THE AIR FORCE SPECIALIZATION SUB-GROUP WAS HELD ON 22 OCT 73. THE GROUP REVIEWED AND APPROVED

REVISED FINAL DRAFT OF FINAL REPORT. MOST OF THE POINTS DISCUSSED IN PARA 2 OF REF A. WERE COVERED IN DIFFERENT WORDS AND ABBREVIATED FASHION IN EITHER THE REPORT OR COVER LETTER. REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED 24 OR 25 OCT. A COMPLETE SET OF FINAL DRAFTS WAS FORWARDED TO OASD/ISA (COL DENSON) 23 OCT VIA APO AIR MAIL, BOX REGISTRATION NO. 3121. SINCE DRAFT REPORT CANNOT BE MATERIALLY CHANGED WITHOUT RECONVENING THE SUB-GROUP, DRAFT WAS FORWARDED IN LIEU OF PUBLISHED DOCUMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR REVIEW. MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE REPORT ON 31 OCT AND SPECIALIZATION STEERING GROUP ON 2 NOV.

2. NOTE IN PARA 24 OF DRAFT COVER LETTER (INCLUDED OVER US OBJECTIONS), STATES THAT MAJORITY OF GROUP RECOMMENDS DISBANDING SUB-GROUP AND LEAVING FURTHER AIR SPECIALIZATION STUDIES TO THE IMS GROUP WORKING ON RATIONALIZATION. SUB-GROUP FOUND ITSELF ILL-EQUIPPED (AND TO A LARGE EXTENT UNWILLING) TO DEAL WITH ANYTHING EXCEPT ISSUE OF RNLAFF F-104 REPLACEMENT BY NETHERLANDS. MOST MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP APPEAR TO FEEL THAT LACK OF POLITICAL UNITY AMONG NATO NATIONS IS A BARRIER TO SPECIALIZATION IN DEFENSE ROLES OTHER THAN LOGISTICS, TRAINING AND SUPPORT. USNATO HAS TRANSMITTED SEPTEL (USNATO 5087) CONTAINING PROPOSALS FOR HANDLING SPECIALIZATION MATTERS IN FUTURE. IN LIGHT OF RATIONALE FOR THESE PROPOSALS, IT WILL NOT PRESS FOR CONTINUATION OF EXISTING AIR SUB-GROUP BEYOND DECEMBER MINISTERIAL.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US SUPPORT THE SUB-GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE RNLAFF SPECIALIZE ALONG THE LINES OF OPTION TWO. WHILE THE AIR SPECIALIZATION STUDY DID NOT COME UP TO US EXPECTATIONS IN TERMS OF A BROAD LOOK AT SPECIALIZATION PER SE, IT DOES RECOMMEND THE BEST PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE FOR RESOLVING THE DUTCH PROBLEM.

4. REF C STATES THE US P-530 COBRA WILL PROBABLY BE SELECTED TO REPLACE THE F-104G, BUT SUGGESTS THE NETHERLANDS MAY STILL BE CONSIDERING THE JAGUAR OR ALPHA-JET. THIS IS ALWAYS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF THE LOWER COST OF THESE AIRCRAFT, AND THE PRESSURES TO BUY EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT. WITH SOME STRETCH OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE IMAGINATION, THE JAGUAR MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LIMITED AIR SUPERIORITY CAPABILITY WITH AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES. HOWEVER, THE REPORT STRESSES THE REQUIREMENT FOR A GOOD AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY AND MAKES A POINT OF THE RNLAFF'S CONTRIBUTION TO AIR SUPERIORITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION UNDER OPTION TWO. OF ALL THE PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES, OPTION TWO STILL PROVIDES THE GREATEST ADVANTAGE FOR CANDIDATE US AIRCRAFT.

5. HOWEVER, IF NATO INSISTS THAT THE NETHERLANDS REPLACE THEIR F-104'S ON A 1-FOR-1 BASIS, OR AS SHAPE SUGGESTED, ON A GREATER THAN 1-FOR-1 BASIS, THEN AIRCRAFT UNIT COST BECOMES MUCH MORE IMPORTANT, AND THE CHANCES THE DUTCH GOVT MIGHT OPT FOR CHEAPER AIRCRAFT ARE IMPROVED. THIS IS WHY THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A 1-FOR-1

REPLACEMENT IS STATED AS A GOAL OR AIM RATHER THAN A FIRM REQUIREMENT

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AND ONLY NUMBERS OF SQUADRONS ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSED IN THE
REPORT -- TO PRESERVE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY
FOR A US REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE TO BE SELECTED.

6. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE DUTCH REPLACEMENT DECISION
WILL STRONGLY INFLUENCE THE BELGIAN DECISION ON THEIR F-104'S,
AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE DUTCH NF-5 AND BELGIAN MIRAGE 5 REPLACEMENT
DECISIONS; WITH OTHER NATO AND MID-EAST NATIONS FOLLOWING SUIT.
THUS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DUTCH DECISION FAR OUTWEIGHS THE
NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED INITIALLY.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 2 NOV 73.
RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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